

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system for producing a sheet package having a predetermined number of sheets, comprising:

a1 a-cutting/stacking ~~device~~means for forming said sheets by cutting continuous sheet at a regular length, and for stacking said sheets in said predetermined number;

a-covered sheet stack producing ~~device~~means for covering at least a portion of a top or bottom surface of said stacked sheets with ~~in~~ a protective cover, to obtain a covered sheet stack; and

a-packaging ~~device~~means for packaging said covered sheet stack to obtain said sheet package;

wherein said cutting/stacking ~~device~~means, said covered sheet stack producing ~~device~~means and said packaging ~~device~~means are connected in series with one another.

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 1, wherein said cutting/stacking ~~device~~means, said covered sheet stack producing ~~device~~means and said packaging ~~device~~means are balanced in line capacity balance relative to one another.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 1~~ A sheet package producing system for producing a sheet package having a predetermined number of sheets, comprising:

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cutting/stacking means for forming said sheets by cutting continuous sheet at a regular length, and for stacking said sheets in said predetermined number;

covered sheet stack producing means for covering said stacked sheets with a protective cover, to obtain a covered sheet stack; and

packaging means for packaging said covered sheet stack to obtain said sheet package;

wherein said cutting/stacking means, said covered sheet stack producing means and said packaging means are connected in series with one another;

wherein said protective cover includes transversely extending plural bending lines for defining first, second and third portions, said first portion being positioned on an end face of said stacked sheets, said second and third portions being positioned on upper and lower faces of said stacked sheets; and

wherein said covered sheet stack producing ~~device~~ means includes:

a first handling ~~module~~ means for placing either one of said second portion and said stacked sheets on an upper surface of a remaining one thereof;

a folding ~~module~~ means for folding said protective cover along said plural bending lines, and for squeezing said stacked sheets between said second and third portions, to obtain said covered sheet stack.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 3, wherein said cutting/stacking ~~device~~ means includes:

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a-supply ~~module~~means for feeding said continuous sheet;

a-cutter ~~module~~means for cutting said continuous sheet to obtain said sheets; and

a-stacker ~~module~~means for stacking said sheets in said predetermined number.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 4, wherein said first handling ~~module~~means places said second portion of said protective cover on said stacked sheets;

further comprising a-second handling ~~module~~means for turning over a sheet orientation of said stacked sheets to locate said protective cover under said stacked sheets, and then for setting said protective cover and said stacked sheets to said folding ~~module~~means;

said folding ~~module~~means folds said protective cover by bending upward said third portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 5, wherein said cutting/stacking ~~device~~means further includes a-synchronizing ~~unit~~means for synchronizing said supply ~~module~~means, said cutter ~~module~~means and said stacker ~~module~~means with one another.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 6, wherein said supply ~~module~~means, said cutter ~~module~~means and said stacker ~~module~~means include respectively drive power sources;

said synchronizing ~~unit~~means electrically synchronizes said drive power sources.

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8. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 6,  
wherein said cutting/stacking ~~device~~means further includes:

a drive power source incorporated in one of said supply ~~module~~means, said cutter  
~~module~~means and said stacker ~~module~~means; and

two transmission couplings for transmitting force of driving of said drive power source to  
remaining two of said supply ~~module~~means, said cutter ~~module~~means and said stacker  
~~module~~means, to constitute said synchronizing ~~unit~~means.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 8,  
wherein said drive power source is incorporated in said cutter ~~module~~means.

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 5,  
wherein said covered sheet stack producing ~~device~~means further includes a pre-bending  
~~module~~means, actuated earlier than said folding ~~module~~means, for bending said protective cover  
temporarily by forcibly depressing said third portion;

said first handling ~~module~~means sets said protective cover on said pre-bending  
~~module~~means, and then places said protective cover on said stacked sheets.

11. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 10,  
wherein said second handling ~~module~~means includes:

a sheet chuck means for capturing said stacked sheets;

a moving robot arm means for moving said sheet chuck means; and

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a-rotating ~~mechanism~~means, secured to said sheet chuck or said moving robot arm  
means, for rotating said sheet chuck means to turn over said sheet orientation.

12. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 11,  
wherein said first handling ~~module~~means includes:

a-cover suction pad means for sucking said protective cover;

a-cover moving robot arm means for moving said cover suction pad means.

13. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 5,  
wherein said packaging ~~device~~means includes:

a-bag packaging ~~machine~~means for packaging said covered sheet stack in a packaging  
bag;

a-box packaging ~~machine~~means for packaging said covered sheet stack in an outer box  
after packaging in said packaging bag, to obtain said sheet package.

14. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 13,  
wherein said bag packaging ~~machine~~means includes:

a-stack feeding ~~module~~means for feeding said covered sheet stack;

a ~~module~~first means for wrapping said covered sheet stack with bag material; and

a ~~module~~second means for folding a margin flap of said bag material wrapping said  
covered sheet stack, to form enclosure of said covered sheet stack in said packaging bag.

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15. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 14,  
wherein said box packaging ~~machine~~means includes:

a box forming ~~module~~means for forming said outer box by bending a plate material or  
sheet material; and

a box inserting ~~module~~means for inserting said covered sheet stack into said outer box  
after packaging in said packaging bag.

16. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 5,  
wherein said cutting/stacking ~~device~~means further includes a decurler ~~module~~means for  
eliminating or reducing a curling tendency of said continuous sheet.

17. (Currently Amended) A sheet package producing system as defined in claim 1,  
wherein each of said cutting/stacking ~~device~~means, said covered sheet stack producing  
~~device~~means and said packaging ~~device~~means includes:

plural modules; and

a pallet, disposed in each of said plural modules, having a size predetermined in  
consideration of a maximum size of said sheets, for supporting said continuous sheet, said sheets,  
said protective cover, said covered sheet stack or said sheet package.

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